

## The Watauga Democrat

A DEMOCRATIC family news paper devoted to the interests of County, State and Nation. Published every Thursday at Boone, Watauga County, N.C.

### A Majority and a Minority.

Very often one hears the remark, "If my party nominated a 'yaller' dog," or the equivalent a little bit more delicately put, I would vote for him." In ninety nine cases out of a hundred it is a clear case of buncombe and in the hundredth the speaker merely puts a reproach upon his own manhood and a slight upon his own independence. He confesses himself a time-server, a man without a mind.

Parties are merely combinations of men and while the old proverb has it "the voice of the people is the voice of God," it is merely another instance of a heavy, old legend that is full of fallacy. Parties like men may go astray. The majority is not always right. Indeed it is almost fair to say that majorities are more apt to be wrong than minorities, which same is easily proven. Any one who has made the study of humanity a specialty knows that one of every ten ordinary men one will do the thinking while the others follow blindly whoever is the popular leader for the time being, whether in politics, religion, business or literature.

Then these ten gather in hundreds and thousands. They become imbued with that common purpose inspired by the peculiar excitement or exhilaration of feeling which inspires and pervades all large crowds. The popular leader bends them hither and thither. His words may be halting, but they appear to be oracles. The minority, with more individuality, are swept away like chaff, although in fact they are the true kernels of grain rich with potentiality and bright with promise.

Will it be contested that the minority should follow blindly this wind-swept mob? They may do it for policy's sake, but it is only for policy. Are they under obligation to outrage their own feelings and ideas of right and wrong and blindly do the bidings of men their inferiors in all that goes to make up manhood?

If this feeling should have existed in '93 would that grand step forward have been taken when popular government was brought a hundred years nearer consummation? What would have happened in '76 when our patriot fathers declared themselves citizens of a new power, for which power they shed their blood and spent their treasure? To deny the logical outcome of this abnegation of self would have been to deny the right of revolution, a right upon which rests the cornerstone of the American republic.

Parties are a necessity. Without them there can be no government; but right here in Tennessee is a fight going on at the present time in which a faction is endeavoring to throw from power another faction which rules by undemocratic methods and under undemocratic principles, oath-bound and secret. A true republican cannot but sympathize with the Turney faction, even though it be nose-covered and blind, though open, rather than a

party with a grip and pass-word.

And when any party so goes astray from the broad road of its past and strays into by-paths under the direction of mediocre leaders, it deserves a discipline.—*Knoxville Journal.*

### Can Cleveland Carry New York?

The Hon. John De Witt Warren, a member of Congress from New York, an active and earnest worker in the cause of tariff reform, and an efficient missionary in the cause, in a recent address before the Cleveland Club of Richmond, Va., thus answers the question "Can Mr. Cleveland carry New York?" Reviewing the history New York State politics since 1888, the year of Cleveland's defeat, and contrasting the result in 1890, he says: "In two short years national issues had been put in the lead, and tariff reform from a discredited issue had been made the winning one. It still remains so. The work that made it so has been continued, and it is today even more strong, compared with any other issue, than it was in 1890. Such is the change that has taken place since 1889, and such is the reason that Cleveland would sweep the State which has been redeemed upon the issue he made."

Answering the objection "that the New York democracy is divided into warring factions," Mr. Warren says: "So far is this from being true that I have never seen the democracy of New York so united, so determined, so enthusiastic. There is a jangle between warring machines striving for the right to represent the voters but there is no split between the voters except rivalry in bringing out such a vote as shall insure the success of the candidate nominated at Chicago." Mr. Warren earnestly defends Tammany from the imputation of the suspicion, even of any disposition to "knife the democratic ticket if Cleveland is nominated," and confidently affirms that "Tammany will be true to the democratic ticket, whoever is nominated, and will give as large a majority for Cleveland as for any other candidate."

The dissensions, the rivalries, the bickerings of the few months past, Mr. Warren asserts, have had the effect to strengthen Mr. Cleveland with the New York democracy. "The result," he says, "of the attacks upon Mr. Cleveland has been that from a political favorite he has become a political martyr in the people's cause, and they are running to him as they could never have been induced to do in any other manner." And Mr. Warren concludes by warning his Virginia auditors not to be troubled by manufactured news that comes to you about N. Y. affairs. Most of it comes from other sources than New York. It amuses us in N. Y. to see how easily we can scare outsiders, but political war-snares and howling dervish threats don't bother us.—*Baltimore Sun.*

Samuel Davis, of Whitneysville, Me., who is eighty-four years old, shot four foxes in one day, making a total of forty this season. He says that "foxes are uncommon crotchets, but they are easy to get if you know how."

### Mangled by his Favorite Lion.

The celebrated French beast prieter, Bidel, whose show is as well known in France as Womwell's in England, or Barnum's in America, possessed a magnificent lion named Sultan, with whom he was on the most familiar terms; but one day, when Bidel had entered his favorite's cage, still suffering (Bidel, not the lion) from an attack of the gout, the tamer fell and Sultan was soon under the influence of his original sin and trespassing accordingly.

The painter, Edouard Detaille, was present, and his comments, published in the *Monde Illustré* a few years back, are worth reproducing. "I shall never forget," says M. Detaille, "the look of the man when he fell. The expression of one who feels he is lost, on the edge of an abyss. At first the lion seemed to fear some trick and made passes with his claws as does a cat; then, as he placed one enormous paw on the shoulders of Bidel, there rose such a clamor of screams for aid and cries of terror from the spectators that Sultan seemed to take the protests as an insult, and after tranquilly regarding the crowd with supreme contempt he once more assumed the cat-like nature, and leaping round on his four paws nibbled at and played with the wretched man. His back and tail concealed Bidel, while the movement of head alone suggested the horrid amusement we could not see. At this moment two keepers appeared, each with a bar of iron, the effect of which Sultan well knew, and the beast slunk away into a corner of the cage."

"When Bidel rose the skin was hanging from his forehead and his strong neck was raw and bleeding. Evidence of the claws of Sultan were visible all over his costume and his bare limbs, and he owned that he had lost all hope when he felt Sultan's teeth in his flesh.—*New York Journal.*

### Curious Facts.

Cats die at an elevation of 10,000 feet.  
A frog cannot breathe with his mouth open.  
Only one couple in 11,500 live to celebrate their diamond wedding.  
Pendulum clocks were invented after Galileo stood observing the lamp in a church swinging to and fro.

The body of a woman who died in Indiana the other day was borne to the grave by six of her twelve sons.

During the past ten years there has been a falling off in the supply of lobsters, until the price has increased fully 100 per cent.

Old peach trees are now being reported from all over the country, but Southern papers claim that the oldest free-bearing tree is living in Georgia and is fifty-two years old.

The first auction ever held in Great Britain was in 1700, when Elisha, a Governor of Fort Orange, in the East Indies, publicly sold the goods he had brought home to the highest bidder.

Forty-nine years after being wrecked a schooner sunk off Cape May, N. J., inlet has been rescued by the waves from her bed of sand, and within a week will be floated. The sea does give up its secrets after all.

Twenty-five cents was paid for a horse at a sale in Bucks county, Penn., the other day, and the auctioneer threw in a halter to make a respectable bargain. The horse dropped dead before the purchaser got him home.

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